

but that he bore the name OP **Rtaxšaça* himself, too, is clearly evident from his own authentic cuneiform inscriptions.

2.2. Darius II (424–405/4 B.C.) originally was called Ochus, hence OP **Vauka*: Since he was a bastard son of Artaxerxes' from a Babylonian concubine, the Greeks gave him the epithet Νέθος "Bastard". But in addition to this epithet his proper or private name Ochus has been preserved, too: The pertinent passage in the work of Ctesias, who was the physician in ordinary to Queen Parysatis, to the king's son Artaxerxes II and the latter's family, is of course known only by the excerpt we read in Photius (Ctesias, *Persica*, F 15 § 50, p. 469, 18 J.)¹: βασιλεύει Ὀχος, καὶ μετονομάζεται Δαρεῖος "King is (then) Ochus, and he changes his name into Dari(ae)us"². In the same way Valerius Maximus, *Memorabilia*, IX, 2 extern. § 6 speaks of Ochus ..., qui postea Darius appellatus est "Ochus ..., who later was called Darius".

2.3. Artaxerxes II (405/4–359/8 B.C.) originally was named Arsaces vel Arsicas vel Arsēs: Which variant represents the true form, shall be discussed below in § 4.1; but in spite of that disagreement of the tradition there can be no doubt about the mere fact of a change of name by this king. There are several sources to be quoted: Ctesias, *Persica*, F 15 § 51, p. 469, 27–29 J. (again known only by the Photius-excerpt) says, that Darius II had two children from his wife Parysatis already before his own reign, Ἀμῆστριν θυγατέρα καὶ Ἀρσάκην υἱόν, δὲ ὕστερον μετωνομάσθη Ἀρτοξέρξης "a daughter named Amestris and a son named Arsacas, who later changed his name into Artaxerxes". Similarly Ctesias (apud Photius), *Persica*, F 15 § 55, p. 471, 9–10 J. introduces the same person with the words: Ἀρσάκης ὁ τοῦ βασιλέως παῖς, ὁ καὶ ὕστερον μετωνομάσθη Ἀρτοξέρξης "Arsaces, the king's son, who later also changed his name into Artaxerxes". For the third time we read the same, at last, once more in Ctesias (apud Photius), *Persica*, F 16 § 57, p. 472, 4–5 J.: βασιλεύει δὲ Ἀρσάκης ὁ μετωνομάσθη Ἀρτοξέρξης "But king is (then) Arsaces, who changed his name into Artaxerxes". Ctesias' account (which accordingly is numbered by Jacoby 1958 as F 15a § 4, p. 470, 5–16 J.) and a slightly differing information of the 4th-century historian Dinon (F 14, p. 526, 32–34 J.) are compared with one another by Plutarchus, who saw his most reliable source in Ctesias' *Persica* and gave the reason for that view in this very context (Plutarchus, *Artaxerxes*, I, 4): ὁ δ' Ἀρτοξέρξης Ἀρσίκας πρότερον ἐκαλεῖτο

¹ The quotations of Ctesias are taken from the authoritative edition of the fragments by Jacoby 1958 ("J.").

² The translation of this passage in König 1972, p. 19 ("Großkönig wird Ōchos und wird umbenannt in Dareiaios") seems to be contestable in many respects.

καίτοι Δείνων φησὶν ὅτι Ὀάρσης· ἀλλὰ τὸν Κτησίαν, εἰ καὶ τᾶλλα μύθων ἀπιθάνων καὶ παραφύρων ἐμβέβληκεν εἰς τὰ βιβλία παντοδαπὴν πυλαίαν, οὐκ εἰκός ἐστὶν ἀγνοεῖν τοῦνομα τοῦ βασιλέως, παρ' ᾧ διέτριβε θεραπεύων αὐτὸν καὶ γυναῖκα καὶ μητέρα καὶ παῖδας "But Artaxerxes was called Arsicas before, even though Dinon says, that (he was called) Oarses. Ctesias, however, even if he has else inserted a promiscuous crowd of incredible and absurd stories in his books, in all likelihood knew well enough the name of that king, at whose court he dwelt as his physician and that of his wife, his mother, and his children". In the following chapter Plutarchus says (*Artaxerxes*, II, 5), that out of Darius' sons after the king's death ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἀπεδείχθη βασιλεὺς, Ἀρτοξέρξης μετωνομασθεὶς, Κύρος δὲ Λυδίας σατράπης καὶ τῶν ἐπὶ θαλάσῃ στρατηγός "the older one has been appointed king, changing his name into Artaxerxes, Cyrus, however, satrap of Lydia and commander of the lands at the sea".

2.4. Artaxerxes III (359/8–338/7 B.C.) originally was named Ochus, hence OP **Vauka*, under which name alone he most often is mentioned in classical sources. The change of name itself is attested by Diodorus Siculus in a passage (XV, 93, 1) which regrettably escaped the attention of Schmitt 1977³: It is told there, that after the death of Artaxerxes II τὴν δὲ βασιλείαν διεδέξατο Ὀχος ὁ μετωνομασθεὶς Ἀρταξέρξης "Ochus, who changed his name into Artaxerxes, has succeeded to the kingdom". In the same context the Greek author adds the following motivation for the king's doing that: τοῦ γὰρ Ἀρταξέρξου καλῶς βεβασιλευκότος καὶ γενομένου παντελῶς εἰρηνικοῦ καὶ ἐπιτυχοῦς, τοὺς μετὰ τοῦτον βασιλεύοντας μετωνόμαζον καὶ τὴν τούτου προσγορίαν ἔχιν προσέταττον "Since Artaxerxes (scil.: II)⁴ had been a good king and had been quite peaceful and fortunate, they (scil.: the Persians) renamed all kings ruling after him and ordered them to bear his name". It may be noticed just here, that this "law" is not valid, however, at least in the case of Darius III (see below § 2.6). To the μετωνομασία in question are referring moreover incidental remarks of Valerius Maximus, who speaks (*Memorabilia*, IX, 2 extern. § 7) of alterius Ochi cognomine Artaxerxis crudelitas "the cruelty of another Ochus with the surname Artaxerxes", and of St. Jerome, who explicitly mentions (*Commentaria in Daniele*, II, 7, 5) alium Artaxerxen qui et ipse cognominatus est Ochus "another Artaxerxes, who was surnamed Ochus, too"⁵.

³ The author's attention has been drawn to this passage by Badian 1977, p. 47: cfr. Schmitt 1979, p. 61 n. 1.

⁴ It is a matter of course, that this can only refer to Artaxerxes II, not to Artaxerxes I in the story of Diodorus.

⁵ Cfr. also St. Jerome, *Chronicon*, p. 120, 19–20 Helm and the parallel evidence collected *ibid.*, p. 362, 18–29 (Helm 1956).